

MATERIA MEDICA.

29. *Hydrocyanic Acid*.—Dr. SCHNEIDER has employed this acid as an external application to herpetic eruptions, and with signal advantage, even in cases of long standing, and which had resisted the usual remedies. He uses a drachm and a half of the acid, mixed with six ounces of alcohol, and sometimes to prevent too much irritation, adds six ounces of rose water.—*Rust's Magazine*, 21 B., S. 569.

30. *Atropia and Hyosciamine*.—A German physician, Dr. KOPF, recommends the injection of a solution of atropia into the rectum to facilitate the operation for fistula in ano, and to relieve also the spasmodic contractions of that intestine. He thinks also, that we may dilate the neck of the uterus in difficult parturitions by this remedy. As an internal remedy, he thinks the hyosciamine much preferable to any of the preparations of opium, as it has not the disadvantage of irritating mucous surfaces.—*Annales de la Médecine Physiologique*, June, 1827.

31. *Nitro-Muriatic Acid Baths*.—Dr. BERNHARD of Leipzig, has used these baths with advantage in chronic engorgements of the liver, and the diseases arising from it, as icterus, ascites, hydrothorax, &c. and in herpes, secondary syphilis, &c.—*Bulletin des Sciences Médicales*.

32. *Belladonna in Scarlatina*.—In the last volume of the *Philadelphia Journal of the Med. and Phys. Sc.* will be found some observations which are highly favourable to the efficacy of the belladonna as a preservative against scarlatina. Dr. LEHMAN has published, in the twenty-second volume of *Rust's Magazine*, a memoir, in which he observes that an epidemic scarlatina prevailed at Torgau, in 1825, of so violent a character that one in eight of those afflicted with it died, and that thirty patients, all of tender age, fell victims to it. The belladonna was administered, with confidence, in many families, in which the disease appeared, and there could be no doubt of the good quality of the extract employed, nevertheless it did not act either as a preservative, nor did it mitigate the violence of the disease. Dr. L. did not perceive any difference either in the violence of the disease, or its results, when it attacked those who had taken the belladonna, even for a long time and in large doses, and those who had never taken the medicine.

33. *Alcoholic Extract of Nux Vomica in Rheumatic Paralysis, and in the incontinence of Urine in Children*.—"A young man, an amanuensis, was suddenly attacked with difficulty in moving the right arm, and presently also with pain. When M. MAURICET, his physician, first saw him ten days afterwards, the shoulder and arm were very tender and swollen, and the forearm was always kept in a half-bent position, and in a state of pronation. Anodyne embrocations removed the pain in the course of eight days; but the patient could not execute the movements of the shoulder-joint at all. Half a grain of the alcoholic extract of nux vomica was then given twice a day in the form of pill. The movements of the joint soon afterwards gradually returned. At first they were involuntary and limited in extent; but by and bye they became much more free, and the patient acquired the command of them. After sixteen days of this treatment, during which the pills were increased to four daily, the joint was restored completely to its natural state.

"Two boys, one thirteen, the other fourteen years of age, had been liable from their infancy to nocturnal incontinence of urine. M. Mauricet, who was consulted by their father, resolved to try the effect of the extract of nux vomica, and gave each of them half a grain night and morning. In three days the incontinence disappeared, and it did not return so long as the remedy was taken. In fifteen days the remedy was discontinued, but the malady returned soon afterwards. The nux vomica was resumed, and with the same success. It

was again omitted, and the complaint again returned. At last the extract being again resumed, and taken without intermission for a month, the children were radically cured."—*Ed. Med. and Surg. Journ. July, 1827, from Archives Générales de Médecine, Mars. 1827.*

34. *Action of Belladonna on the Pupil.*—"Some discrepancy having manifested itself on the extent of this action, from the different results of experiments in different hands, the conclusion seems to be deducible, that where the quantity of the belladonna employed is small, the dilatation is confined to one eye. M. EHLERS, on wakening in the morning, inserted in one of his eyes a portion of the extract not larger than the seed of a millet, and the consequence was, that the pupil of that eye only, (the other retaining its natural state,) continued greatly dilated for ninety-three hours, during which he could see with it perfectly well. If the quantity employed is considerable, both eyes are affected in the same manner; but the dilatation continues in the one to which the belladonna has been applied long after it ceases in the other. It may be added, that the effects of the drug are energetic and durable, in proportion to the quantity; and that it acts with greater readiness, but less duration when the subject is young."—*Lond. Med. Rep. August, 1827, from Archives Générales, for May.*

35. *Camphor in Rheumatism.*—M. AMABLE CHEZE has communicated to the Medical Society of Lyons, many cases of acute rheumatism cured by general fumigation with camphor; he assists the profuse perspiration which it induces by appropriate means.—*Ann. de la Méd. Phys. April, 1827, from the Compte Rendu, par J. M. Pichard, D. M.*

36. *Pomegranate as a remedy for Tenia.*—D. ANTONIO BIGTI, of Pisa, in a paper in the *Nuovo Giornale di Letterati*, details his experience with the pomegranate, (*punica granatum*), as a remedy against tenia: he observes that it is the most certain and efficacious remedy he has found, but that much depends on the mode of preparing it. The part used is the bark of the root, this is most powerful and prompt in its operation in a fresh state, he details a case in which he gave a decoction of $\frac{3i.$ of the fresh root in a pint and a half of water boiled down to one-half, to be taken in two doses at an hour's interval—in ten minutes after the last dose the patient passed a worm. He gives the following directions for its use drawn from a great number of trials.—The patient should take a dose of opening medicine the day before the decoction is taken—the bark should be taken from the roots of young plants—of the fresh root the dose is as given above: when dried, ten drachms are to be infused in cold water for twenty-four hours, and then boiled away one-half, this decoction is to be given in three doses—one every hour.

PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

37. *Bleeding in the cold stage of Intermittent Fever.*—In the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, for April, 1827, there is an interesting paper, by Dr. MACKINTOSH on this subject. Believing, correctly, that the difficulty of breathing, the tremors, the pain in the head, the coma, and other symptoms of the cold stage, are owing to congestions of blood in the brain, lungs, liver, spleen, and other internal organs, Dr. M. determined to try the effects of blood-letting, and he had the boldness to practice it first on himself, in 1810, when harassed with an ague which resisted the usual remedies. Before twelve ounces of blood were drawn, the rigors ceased, with all their unpleasant concomitants—there was no hot or sweating state—a pleasant sense of heat succeeded the painful one of cold, and instead of weakness, he felt stronger.